

Question on Notice
No. 309
Asked on Wednesday 8 March 2006

MS MALE asked the Minister for Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women (MS DESLEY BOYLE)–

QUESTION:

With reference to the Government's sustainable housing program which came into effect recently–

What are the environmental design requirements for dwellings to be built in Queensland from this point on?

ANSWER:

The sustainable building requirements will make new houses more energy and water efficient. The requirements for new housing include:

- energy-efficient lighting for at least 40 per cent of the house;
- greenhouse-efficient hot water systems;
- water-saving shower roses to achieve at least 3 star or AAA performance;
- devices to limit water pressure in areas with high water pressure; and
- toilets to be dual-flush with a maximum cistern size of 6 litres on full flush and 3 litres on half flush.

In addition, councils will be able to require the installation of rainwater tanks in new houses in designated areas where it can be shown there is a community benefit from doing so.

These requirements apply to houses and townhouses. Three of the measures will also apply to units, namely energy-efficient lighting, 3 star or AAA shower roses and dual-flush toilets. Two of the measures also apply to major renovations, namely 3 star or AAA shower roses and dual-flush toilets.

The sustainable housing regulations will reduce energy use in new houses by 34%, cutting household greenhouse gas emissions by a third.

The impact of these savings will grow as more new houses are built and, after 12 years, annual savings will be equivalent to the greenhouse gas emissions from a small coal-fired power station such as Queensland's 188 MW Collinsville Power Station.